



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 24, 2011

Contact: Robert Sauers

Phone: +93 (0) 794 858 501

Email: rsauers@usaid.gov

Hirat Municipality Plans Canal Project to Respond to Residents' Needs

HIRAT, AFGHANISTAN | JULY 24, 2011 — Residents of Hirat will enjoy improved public-health prospects and increased cleanliness upon completion of a three-kilometer canal and culvert construction project in the city's center, identified as a priority by the municipal office.

This project will soon allow for better water drainage and enable people to walk more easily through the city streets, particularly in winter months. Project construction will begin this month with funding and technical assistance provided through USAID and its Regional Afghan Municipalities Program for Urban Populations project, which began in the Western region provinces of Hirat, Badghis, Farah, and Ghor in 2011.

Today, U.S. Government officials joined Governor of Hirat H.E. Dr. Daud Saba, Mayor of Hirat H.E. Alhaj Mohammad Salim Taraki, respected officials from the Independent Directorate of Local Governance municipal staff, and residents of Hirat to celebrate the groundbreaking of the new municipal project.

"We are pleased to partner with USAID on this significant project for the people of Hirat City. Not only will it widen the main street and allow for better drainage and overall cleanliness in the city, it will provide short-term work for residents who need it the most," said Mayor Taraki speaking at the groundbreaking. "We also look forward to providing more such services for residents, which will be identified through citizens' forums in all of the city's sub-districts in the coming weeks. Overall, we aim to increase confidence in municipal service delivery and see this project as one step in that direction. We look forward to an ongoing mutual exchange with city residents."

The advisory board of Hirat and community elders were consulted during the initial identification of projects and the final project was decided in close cooperation with both groups.

USAID supports relevant mayors and other municipal officials to increase institutional capacity, implement policy, provide resources for delivering essential services and increase and manage revenue.

###

For more information about USAID's programs, please visit: <http://afghanistan.usaid.gov>

The American people, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, have provided economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide for nearly 50 years.



USAID on Facebook



USAID on Twitter



USAID on YouTube



USAID on Flickr